

IN RECOGNITION OF AZERBAIJAN
REPUBLIC DAY**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Azerbaijan as it recently celebrated the 99th anniversary of Republic Day.

On May 28, 1918, the Azerbaijani National Council proclaimed the independence of Azerbaijan and the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Thus, Azerbaijan became the first democratic parliamentary republic in the Muslim world.

Since that day nearly a century ago and especially over the last 25 years, the United States has striven to develop, grow, and enhance its relationship with Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people.

Azerbaijan is an ethnically diverse country where the predominately Muslim population coexists with Christian, Jewish, and other religious communities. The country has emerged as a leader in energy markets in the Caspian Region for several years now. The United States has long supported Azerbaijan's achievements and the United States seeks to maintain a strong bilateral economic relationship through the promotion of trade and investment.

The United States and Azerbaijan continue to foster a strong and sturdy partnership and cooperate on economic and security issues. Azerbaijan has taken critical steps toward working with the United States on counterterrorism efforts. The American people appreciate and are grateful for the solid bilateral relationship forged over the years with Azerbaijan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan and its people on this the 99th anniversary commemorating Republic Day.

SERENITY GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Serenity Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Serenity Garcia is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Serenity Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Serenity Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING GARY LETTERLY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Gary Letterly for his dedication to the agricultural community and congratulate him on his retirement after 25 years with University of Illinois Extension.

For nearly three decades, Gary has worked at the Extension office in Christian County, contributing to local economic development projects within the county. In this role, Gary was able to establish an Enterprise Zone along Route 29 and create "Community Swaps" which helped connect community leaders and elected officials to similarly-sized communities in the state as a way to help those officials learn and grow in their positions.

As his career progressed, Gary's unique specializations and insight helped to broaden the focus and expand the impact of the University of Illinois Extension Office. His broad range of skills greatly impacted the production of local row-crops as well as homeowner lawn and pest issues.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Letterly's work on behalf of the agricultural community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING HUBERT MILLS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the world has changed much over the last 100 years. If you want to know just how much, ask Mr. Hubert Mills of Hot Springs, Arkansas. The year of Mr. Mills' birth was eventful—the U.S. faced uncertainty as President Woodrow Wilson prepared our nation for World War I, the Chicago White Sox won the world series, and the man who would become the 35th U.S. President, John F. Kennedy, was born.

In his 100 years of life, Mr. Mills saw America win two world wars and put a man on the moon. He has lived through the administrations of 18 presidents of the United States and experienced the American dream.

During 100 years, he has worked a variety of jobs from driving a sprinkler truck at the local race track at age 20 to working as a driver for Railway Express. But Mr. Mills made a name for himself building homes in the Hot Springs region, retiring at the age of 95, though he still does work for his many customers.

At 100-years-old, Mr. Mills is surrounded by many loved ones, including his three children, six grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. As Mr. Mills celebrates his 100th birthday on Friday, June 9, 2017, I would like to wish him a happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
HEALTH FOUNDATION'S DIVERSE
SCHOLARS INITIATIVE**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, continuing to modernize the health care system requires improving the quality and delivery of health care, the backbone of which is our health workforce. I am proud to have the opportunity today to talk about a group of promising students from around the country. This year's United Health Foundation Diverse Scholars Initiative scholarship recipients represent 36 states, and they are some of the brightest individuals preparing to enter the health workforce.

They are working hard in their undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs—whether they are studying to be physicians, nurses, dentists, or mental health providers—to increase the number of skilled professionals entering the health workforce. This is key to the future of our nation's health: we need a robust health care workforce in order to increase access to care in rural areas and across the nation.

Beyond their academic achievements, I would also like to recognize their commitment to making the health care system more culturally relevant and their dedication to improving the health outcomes of the individuals they will one day serve. Research shows that when people are treated by health professionals who share their language, culture, or ethnicity, they are more likely to accept and receive medical treatment. That is why these students will be a great asset to our nation's health care system.

Next week, these scholars will be joining us in Washington, D.C. to examine some of the nation's most urgent health care issues and potential solutions as part of the Diverse Scholars Forum. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative has helped more than 2,000 multicultural students from across the country realize their dreams of pursuing careers in health while meeting the needs of local and underserved communities. This year, these scholars include a group of military spouses pursuing health careers who have received scholarships, and I would like to recognize their commitment to becoming part of the future health workforce and for their sacrifices and service to our nation.

To these exceptional scholars, congratulations and best wishes for success in all of your future endeavors. As a teacher, I'm proud to know that we have scholars like you who are ready to lead us into a new era of better and more efficient health care. I know that our nation's health care system will benefit from your hard work and talent.

Aviva Aguilar, Fatima Ahmad, Maria Alfaro, Sainfer Aliyu, Cesar Andrade, Austere Apollo, Shantrice Appleby, Janetci Arevalo, Melissa Avila, Kwame Awuku, Kane Banner, Cristina Batarse, Simone Batiste, Shanell Becenti, Asma Begum, Ashleigh Bennett, Michael Bervell, Carlene Black, Ashley Blackwell, Ruth Campos, Girah Caraballo, Suzanne Carvajal-Pinos, Danelle Cooper, Radha Dahal, Ana Maria De Leon, Angelica Duque, Marissa